

SBA ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTS NEW DIRECTORS FOR FIVE DISTRICT OFFICES

WASHINGTON – Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced the appointments of five experienced officials to lead SBA district offices in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Illinois, Michigan and Texas.

The new district directors are Tom Tolan, Philadelphia; Lee Cornelison, North Carolina; Judith Roussel, Illinois; Eugene Cornelius, Michigan and Lavan Alexander, Dallas/Ft. Worth.

“It is with great enthusiasm that I make these appointments,” Administrator Alvarez said. **“The agency’s main goal is to serve as a partner with small businesses and help increase their opportunities for success. The knowledge, experience and expertise these appointees bring to SBA are exactly the talents needed for these demanding positions.”**

Tolan, a seasoned government official with over 16 years of federal service, all with SBA, and four years of military service, has been selected as director of the agency’s Philadelphia, PA, office.

As district director, Tolan will oversee the delivery of agency programs that provide financial assistance, management counseling and business development for Philadelphia, its suburbs and surrounding environs, encompassing 40 counties.

Tolan will be responsible for supervising the activities of 40 permanent employees, including the staff of the Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre branches and the One Stop Capital Shop/Business Information Center, and administering a total business loan portfolio of 3,269 loans worth more than \$385 million. He will oversee a Small Business Development Center (SBDC), seven SBDC subcenters, 14 chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), and a Women’s Business Center.

Tolan most recently served as the acting district director of the agency’s Philadelphia office. He also served as deputy regional administrator for the Philadelphia region. Tolan was responsible for assisting the regional administrator in management and oversight of the region’s district offices and activities of the region’s district directors.

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He served as deputy district director and acting district director for SBA's Baltimore, MD office and directed the daily operations of the office. He was responsible for program areas, including loan approvals, servicing and liquidation, minority business development, advocacy and administrative services. Before, Tolan was assistant district director for finance & investment in the Washington District Office, where he was responsible for administration of the financial assistance programs within the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Tolan, a Pennsylvania native, received a bachelor's degree in business from King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

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Lee Cornelison, a marketing executive, has been selected as the district director in the agency's North Carolina office in Charlotte.

As Charlotte's district director, Cornelison will manage the delivery of SBA's financial assistance, management counseling and business development programs for the state of North Carolina.

Cornelison will supervise the activities of 33 permanent employees and administer a total business loan portfolio of 2,652 loans worth more than \$446 million. He will oversee 12 SDBC's and three subcenters; the SBA Answer Desk (which has logged over one million calls), a U.S. Export Assistance Center, one Business Information Center and a Tribal Business Information Center, a Women's Business Center in Fayetteville and 13 SCORE chapters.

Before joining SBA, Cornelison was a senior vice president for Peabody Coal Sales Company in West Virginia, where he was responsible for all steam coal sales, customer service, contract performance/administration, and transportation in the eastern U.S. and Canada. Cornelison also coordinated customer service operations of 19 coal mines that employed more than 5,000 people. He supervised a staff of sales managers, contract administrators and accountants.

Cornelison also served in the U.S. Army for a combined 30 years of active duty and reserve service.

Cornelison is a native of Missouri and received a master's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and a bachelor's degree in management from Southwest Missouri State University.

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Judith Roussel, currently heading SBA's Office of Government Contracting as associate administrator, is the agency's new district director for Illinois. The office is located in Chicago.

As district director, Roussel will oversee the delivery of agency programs that provide financial assistance, management counseling and business development for Illinois' 102 counties.

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Roussel will be responsible for supervising the activities of 51 employees and administering a total business loan portfolio of 6,440 loans worth more than \$766 million. She will oversee 31 SCORE chapters, two Business Information Centers, 40 SBDCs, a Women's Business Center and a One Stop Capital Shop.

Roussel came to SBA as associate administrator for Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development in 1991, and oversaw SBA's minority small business programs. In conjunction with the Amos Tuck Graduate School of Business at Dartmouth College and The Graduate School of Business at Clark Atlanta University, she introduced executive training programs as a vehicle for strengthening the viability of minority businesses nationwide through SBA's 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance Program.

Roussel has an extensive background as a management and financial consultant providing accounting, business development and financial advisory services to small, minority- and women-owned firms. She served for 10 years with the New York based Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, and also served as an international trade consultant with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

A native of New Orleans, Roussel attended the University of New Orleans where she majored in business administration. She received a masters degree in administration from the University of Maryland.

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Eugene Cornelius, the agency's new district director for the state of Michigan, brings a vast knowledge of economic development, purchasing and procurement and human resources. The office is located in Detroit.

As district director, Cornelius will manage the delivery of SBA's financial assistance, management counseling and business development programs for Michigan's 83 counties.

Cornelius will be responsible for supervising 37 employees and administering a total business loan portfolio of 3,629 loans worth more than \$567 million. He will oversee 12 regional SBDC centers with more than 50 affiliate offices; six SCORE Chapters, one Business Information Center and three Women Business Centers.

Before coming to SBA, Cornelius was director of business services for the Los Angeles Community College District in California. While there, he planned, organized, directed, coordinated and evaluated the activities of the Business Services Branch; directed the preparation of specifications, bid conditions, contract awards and personally conducted contract negotiations involving major procurement and real estate leases, acquisitions, sales, planning, construction, and inspection activities.

Cornelius is a native of Illinois and received a master's degree in human service administration from Spertus College in Chicago, IL; and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL.

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Lavan Alexander, a government executive with over 29 years combined federal government and military service, has been selected as director of the agency's district office in Ft. Worth, Texas.

As district director, Alexander will oversee the delivery of agency programs that providing financial assistance, management counseling and business development for the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, encompassing 72 counties.

Alexander will be responsible for supervising the activities of 35 employees and administering a total business loan portfolio of approximately 7,000 loans worth over \$1 billion. He will oversee one U.S. Export Assistance Center, 16 SCORE Chapters, 17 SBDCs, a Business Information Center and a One Stop Capital Shop.

Before this appointment, Alexander served as deputy district director and acting district director in SBA's Dallas/Ft. Worth office, where he was responsible for the delivery of financial, procurement, management and technical assistance to the small business community in North Central Texas. Before that, Alexander was the assistant district director for procurement and outside resources in Dallas, and was responsible for the delivery of the minority small business and business development programs. He was also the assistant regional administrator for minority small business in Dallas, whose duty was to implement the national policy for SBA's minority small business program in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Alexander received a masters degree in business administration from Texas A&M University, and a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Arkansas.

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